

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. For a computer system, a method of processing audio data in creating a media presentation, wherein the media presentation includes several audio streams, the method comprising:

- a) processing a section of a first audio stream
- b) storing the processed section of the first audio stream; and
- c) processing a section of a second audio stream independently of the first audio stream, wherein the second audio stream overlaps with the first audio stream.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising processing all the audio data after the processing operations, wherein processing includes

processing a third audio stream by retrieving unprocessed data for the third audio stream;

further processing the first and second audio streams by retrieving data produced by the initial processing of the first and second audio data.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the further processing of the first and second audio streams includes performing mixing operations on the first and second audio streams.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

storing the processed section of the second audio stream independently of the processed first audio stream;

wherein the initial processing of the first and second audio streams stores the processed first stream in a first render file and the processed second stream in a second render file, wherein before processing, the first, second, and third audio streams are in first, second, and

third source files, wherein retrieving data for the third audio includes retrieving the data from the third source file, wherein retrieving data for the first and second audio files during the subsequent processing comprises retrieving data from the first and second render files.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing of the first audio stream section comprises applying an effect to the first audio stream section.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the processing of the first audio stream section further comprises performing a sample rate conversion on the first audio stream section.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing of the first audio stream section comprises performing a sample rate conversion on the first audio stream section.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer system has a particular real-time processing power for processing media content, the method further comprising:

before processing the sections of the first and second audio streams, identifying the sections as portions in the first and second audio streams that require more than the available processing power of the computer system.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying the particular processing power of the computer system.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein identifying the particular processing power of the computer system comprises calculating a value based on the hardware resources of the computer system.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein identifying the particular processing power of the computer system comprises retrieving a user-specified parameter that indicates the amount of processing power.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising moving the section of the first audio

stream with respect to the section of the second audio stream, without having to discard the processing of the section of the first audio stream.

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13. A computer readable medium that stores a computer program for processing audio data to create a media presentation, wherein the media presentation includes several audio streams, the computer program comprising sets of instructions for:

- a) processing a section of a first audio stream
- b) storing the processed section of the first audio stream; and
- c) processing a section of a second audio stream independently of the first

audio stream, wherein the second audio stream overlaps with the first audio stream.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the set of instructions for processing of the first audio stream section comprises a set of instructions for applying an effect to the first audio stream section.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the set of instructions for processing of the first audio stream section further comprises a set of instructions for performing a sample rate conversion on the first audio stream section.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the set of instructions for processing of the first audio stream section comprises a set of instructions for performing a sample rate conversion on the first audio stream section.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the computer program further comprises a set of instructions for identifying the particular processing power of the computer system.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the computer program further comprises a set of instructions for storing the processed section of the second audio

stream independently of the processed first audio stream.